

# Wabash Plain Dealer

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**THURSDAY,**  
MARCH 19, 2020

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Tomorrow's weather **58** | **27** 



**Pulse**  
of Wabash

## Wabash Plain Dealer temporarily cutting back on pages due to sports cancellations

Due to the cancellation of college and professional sports, the Wabash Plain Dealer is cutting back the number of pages of the daily newspaper temporarily. Local high school sports are temporarily canceled, but our news reporters will strive to bring you local coverage of our student-athletes inside of our A-section. The Wabash Plain Dealer is devoted to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support of the community during this time. Thank you.

## Wabash Plain Dealer offices closed to the public through March 27

Following is a message from David Holgate, Group President, PMG Community Newsgroup, LLC:

"To reduce risks to our employees, the Wabash Plain Dealer office will be closed to the public through March 27. Our employees will continue their work to get important information out to the community, and customers can reach our office by phone and email. We will continue to publish a paper five days a week and provide our readers with news and information just like we have done for 160 years. Our coverage of COVID-19 will be posted on our website [www.wabashplaindealer.com](http://www.wabashplaindealer.com) as soon as possible and updated throughout the day. It is never easy to deny access to our business, a community business, but these are unprecedented times and require unprecedented decisions. To reach our office, call 260-563-2131 or email [news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com). Thank you for your continued support of the Wabash Plain Dealer."

## Online paywall removed for Wabash Plain Dealer stories on COVID-19

On the Wabash Plain Dealer's website, the paywall for stories related to COVID-19 has been removed. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates.

See **PULSE**, page A3

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Provided photo

Food Services workers from Southwood Elementary and Southwood Jr. / Sr. High School work to fill bags Wednesday.

# Schools providing meals even during closures

WCS, MSD, MCS working to provide food security

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Even though school is out due to concerns over COVID-19, area school corporations have created several opportunities for their students to obtain food.

## MSD

In response to a Plain Dealer request Wednesday, Laura Langebartels, director of communication and community engagement, stated



Provided photo

See **FOOD**, page A2

Grab-n-Go meals were distributed at Southwood Jr. / Sr. High School Wednesday morning.

See **SAFE**, page A2

## MU expands COVID-19 response

Residence halls will close for the remainder of the semester

By **ANNE GREGORY**

President Dave McFadden announced Tuesday, March 17 new developments and decisions regarding how Manchester University is continuing to respond to fast-changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Based on new guidelines and expectations announced Monday night, we have decided to move to remote teaching and online learning for students on both campuses through the end of the spring semester," McFadden said.

Classes for the Fort Wayne campus will resume on Monday, March 23.

Classes for the North

Manchester campus will resume on Wednesday, March 25. This is two days later than regularly scheduled.

Effective 9 p.m. Sunday, March 22, residence halls will close for the remainder of the semester. The process for checking out will be communicated to students through email by their hall directors.

"Also, we recognize that there might be some circumstances that are highly exceptional where students might not have safe or suitable alternative housing options. For these cases, students may ask to continue living on campus," McFadden said.

All campus activities for the remainder of the semester have been canceled or postponed. This includes canceling all athletic competitions, most music concerts and performances, and in-person student activities.

Some presentations and performances might move to online only. At this time, Manchester is finalizing details to allow Songs of the Island to be live-streamed on Facebook at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 26, without an audience.

Spring Commencement ceremonies are canceled. Manchester officials are exploring alternative options to celebrate the Class of 2020.

Many employees will be working remotely, at least through April 1.

"Thank you for your continuing patience and grace as we navigate uncharted waters. The decisions we've made today are done with the health of our campuses and communities in mind," McFadden said.

*Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.*

## DOR temporarily suspends in-person services

Phone, website, email options still available

## STAFF REPORT

In concert with Gov. Eric Holcomb's guidance "and with the utmost concern for the health and safety of Hoosiers and Indiana Department of Revenue (DOR) DOR employees," all DOR in-person customer services will be temporarily suspended, according to a press release.

Locations impacted include:

- Indianapolis Government Center North walk-in, 100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis.
- Motor Carrier Services walk-in, 7811 Milhouse Road, Suite M, Indianapolis.
- DOR District Office walk-in locations in Bloomington, Clarksville, Columbus, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Kokomo, Lafayette,

Merrillville, Muncie, South Bend and Terre Haute.

DOR team members are continuing to provide customer service by phone and email, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Customers have the following service options:

- Call DOR's customer service line at 317-232-2240.
- Call a specific District Office – contact information can be found on DOR's website at [dor.in.gov/3390.htm](http://dor.in.gov/3390.htm).
- Call DOR's Motor Carrier Services at 317-615-7200.
- Contact a specific DOR business unit using a list of phone numbers and email addresses available at [dor.in.gov/3325.htm](http://dor.in.gov/3325.htm).

See **DOR**, page A3

## Parkview Health suspends all elective and non-urgent surgeries

Patients whose surgeries need to be postponed will be contacted

## STAFF REPORT

Effective Tuesday, Parkview Health suspended elective and non-urgent surgeries at all facilities except Parkview Ortho Hospital and Parkview SurgeryONE, according to Tami Brigle,

public relations manager.

"This decision, made in conjunction with Gov. Eric Holcomb's directives, will help prevent the spread of novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), and conserve the resources and personnel necessary to meet emerging

health needs related to the pandemic," stated Brigle. "Parkview will continue to perform medically necessary, urgent and emergent surgeries. These include surgeries that, if delayed, could negatively affect the patient's health outcome. Examples include procedures that are associated with a critical diagnosis, such as cancer or heart disease, or surgeries that prevent underlying

conditions from worsening to the point of emergent intervention."

Brigle stated patients whose surgeries need to be postponed will be contacted. Patients who wish to electively cancel their procedures should first contact their provider to discuss potential health implications.

"Parkview Health continues to take several precautions to mitigate the impacts

of COVID-19. All patients will be contacted the day before a medically necessary procedure to be screened for symptoms. Visitor restrictions will also be enforced, limiting each patient to one healthy adult visitor," stated Brigle.

As a result of these changes, the Parkview Inverness Surgery Center was closed beginning Tuesday and Parkview Premier Surgery was be closed effective Wednesday.







# Obituaries

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Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash • 260-563-0421  
www.grandstaff-hentgen.com

## Dorothy Parsons

March 20, 1934 – March 13, 2020

Dorothy Ann Parsons, 85, of North Manchester, Indiana, died at 10:59 a.m., Friday, March 13, 2020 at Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester. She was born March 20, 1934 in North Manchester, Indiana to Hermann A and Klara A. (Friedrich) Breitkopf.



Dorothy was a 1952 graduate of Central High School in North Manchester, she married James M. Hapner on February 12, 1954; he died May 17, 1972. She then married Charles R. Parsons on October 31, 1975, and divorced on December 31, 1986. She was employed at Peabody Retirement Community from 1954 until 1998, working in a variety of positions including, secretary, bookkeeper, office manager, Assistant Executive Director, Director of Business Affairs, Relocation Coordinator, and concluding with Craig House Coordinator. Dorothy was a life long member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, active in many facets of church life, and twice having served on the church council. She completed the 7 year Bible Study Fellowship course in 2005. Dorothy was a former member of Business Professional Women, Epsilon Upsilon Sorority (Upsilon Chapter) and bowled for several years, going to both State and National tournaments. She lived at 609 W. 9th Street for 40 years before moving to Woodspoint in 2000, then to Peabody in December 2013.

She is survived by her brother, James Breitkopf of Tucson, Arizona, sister-in-law, Barbara Hapner of Coldwater, Michigan, nieces and nephews, Barbara L. Brehm of Wilson, North Carolina, Nancy Brehm Gilbert of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Kathryn Prosen of Mason, Michigan, Steve Hapner of Saginaw, Michigan, Debra Hapner-Allen of Midland, Michigan, Jill Hapner of West Bend, Wisconsin, and Brad Hapner of Coldwater, Michigan, 15 great nieces and nephews, and 18 great great nieces

and nephews. She was also preceded in death by one sister and three brothers.

Aunt Dot, “The World’s Greatest Aunt” as the sign on her door at Peabody proclaimed, loved her family unconditionally, supported us in our life pursuits, and showed us how a loving, generous, strong woman could make wise decisions to provide for herself and others – at home and throughout the world. She was so proud of each of us and kept a “wall of love” showing photos of us through the many years of our growing up and establishing our ways in life. She will be remembered for her sense of humor, her patience with the Cubs and the Pacers, her laugh like no one else’s, her kindness to the many people who came into her life, her generosity of spirit, and her thankful attitude that accepted everything as a blessing coming directly from the hand of God for her to share with others.

Aunt Dot was a treasured member of the family and no family gathering was complete without her presence. She was actively interested in our lives and gave us sound advice, guidance, unconditional love, and reminded us to keep our sense of humor. Her departure leaves a void in our lives, but we take comfort that our wonderful memories of her will fill the void over time.

The family would like to extend special thanks to her very caring companions from Home Helpers, Donna, Alison, and Pat; the Zion Tuesday evening Bible Study friends, Mary, Sally, Eunice, and Sandy; the staff of Heart to Heart Hospice, especially Gretchen and Jaimee; her beautician, Dana Pitts; and Linda and Jeanne for loving and adopting Alex.

Due to coronavirus preventative measures, a memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Bender Chapel, North Manchester.

## John C. Powell

June 19, 1939 – March 17, 2020

John C. Powell, 80, of rural Wabash, Indiana, died at 5:28 p.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at Wellbrooke of Wabash. He was born June 19, 1939 in Harlan County, Kentucky to Audie and Nancy A. (Roberts) Powell.



John married Henrietta Roseberry in Peru, Indiana on August 20, 1982. He worked for Smurfit Stone in Wabash for 40 years. John was a charter member of the Church of God Worship Center. He enjoyed going to church where he sang, and played the guitar for many years. John also enjoyed going to yard sales and playing a good game of greedy.

He is survived by his wife, Henrietta Powell of Wabash, three daughters, Beth (Alan Kirkpatrick) Ridenour of Andrews, Indiana, Melissa (Mike) Orpurt, and Amanda (Neil) Clifton, both of Wabash, two step-daughters, Judy (Rick) Morgan and Pamela (Tom) Haneline, both of Wabash, step-son, Ronald (Teresa) Roseberry of Terre Haute, Indiana, 19 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, brother, Glen “Pete” (Faye) Powell of Wabash, and two sisters, Ruth Caudill of Wabash, and Jackie Clester of Indianapolis, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his parents, grandson, Daniel Morgan, one brother, James Powell, and 3 sisters, Betty Creech, Louise Mollett, and Lucille Sheppard.

Funeral services will be private to the family Saturday at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash, with Marshall Staten officiating. Burial will be in Friends Cemetery, Wabash.

The memorial guest book for John may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Those decisions will be shared as soon as they are made,” stated the release. “Any changes to this guidance, additional modifications to normal operations or changes to tax filing and payment deadlines will be posted on DOR’s website, as well as DOR’s social media accounts. DOR advises all customers to follow the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Their websites contain extremely valuable information and guidance.”

## DOR

From page A1

■ Email DOR using the online form at dor.in.gov/3392.htm.

Additionally, customers can visit DOR’s website at dor.in.gov/4331.htm to take advantage of online services available.

“DOR continues to monitor the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regarding possible changes to filing and payment due dates, and is prepared to follow suit.

# Indiana virus cases rise to 39

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana health officials said Wednesday that the state had nine new coronavirus cases, bringing the total number to 39, as the state’s attorney general urged Hoosiers to report price-gouging amid the pandemic.

The new coronavirus cases involve two in Marion County, which is home to Indianapolis, and one each in Clark, Fayette, Hamilton, Hendricks, Jennings, Lake and Madison counties, the Indiana State Department of Health reported.

Indiana has recorded two COVID-19 deaths, one each in Marion and Johnson counties, the department has said. As of late Tuesday, 193 people had been tested for the coronavirus in Indiana, the department said.

Attorney General Curtis Hill said Wednesday that

his office’s Consumer Protection Division has begun accepting price-gouging complaints from the public in accordance with an executive order Gov. Eric Holcomb issued Monday. Complaints about people or businesses charging excessive prices for consumer goods can be submitted using an online form for that can be found at www.indianaconsumer.com.

Indianapolis-based Simon Property Group announced Wednesday that it was closing its roughly 200 U.S. malls, premium outlets and mills from 7 p.m. Wednesday through March 29 “in recognition of the need to address the spread of COVID-19.”

Honda said it will close its North American plants, including one in the southeastern Indiana city of

Greensburg, for about one week starting Monday. General Motors and Ford confirmed Wednesday that they will temporarily close their North American factories, with Ford closing its plants through March 30 and GM shuttering its plants through at least March 30. Fiat Chrysler will do the same, according to two people briefed on the matter Wednesday.

Lear Corp., meanwhile, has closed its automotive seat-making factory in Hammond for cleaning until Thursday after reporting a second case of coronavirus at the plant, which employs about 875 workers. The plant’s workers make seats for the Ford Explorer SUVs and other vehicles manufactured just across the state line at the Chicago Assembly Plant.

The Hammond plant is a crucial link in the automotive supply chain for Ford’s just-in-time manufacturing operation, which does not stockpile parts but rather installs them in vehicles almost as soon as they’re unloaded from semi-trucks in the loading bay, The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

## PULSE

From page A1

### Schools, organizations announce closings due to COVID-19 concerns

**Access Youth Center:** All scheduled after school and weekend programming is canceled until further notice.

**Honeywell Foundation:** All events at foundation properties including the Honeywell Center, Honeywell House, Eagles Theatre, Dr. James Ford Historic Home and Charley Creek Gardens are suspended through Thursday, April 9.

**Manchester Community Schools:** Closed through Monday, April 13.

**Manchester University:** Remote teaching for students will last through April 18.

**MSD:** Closed through Monday, April 13.

**North Manchester Public Library:** Closed until Monday, March 30. Except for hotspots, no materials will be due during the closure.

**St. Bernard School:** Closed through at least Monday, April 6.

**Wabash Carnegie Public Library:** Closed through at least March 23. Overdue fines for all times except Wi-Fi hotspots waived until further notice.

**Wabash City Hall:** All public meetings postponed through at least March 30. Public access to the building will be restricted during this time. Citizens should visit the city of Wabash website at www.cityofwabash.com to pay bills for wastewater, ambulance billing and building department permits. City court offers pay by phone services.

**Wabash City Schools:** Closed through Monday, April 13. Tuesday through Thursday of this week will be waiver days and Friday will be an eLearning Day. For the weeks of March 23 and 30, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will be eLearning Days. Tuesdays and Thursdays of those weeks will be waiver days. The week of April 6 will be spring break. The week of April 13 will represent the planned return of students and staff. Any changes will be announced in advance.

**Wabash County Museum:** Temporarily closed until further notice.

**Woman’s Clubhouse:** Closed through at least May 8.

**Winchester Senior Center:** All daily activities suspended until at least April 13.

### Parkview Wabash issues new visitor restrictions

Visitors are limited to one adult (at least 18 years old) per patient. This could include a designated family member or spouse/domestic partner. No visitors will be allowed in the emergency department (except for a parent or guardian of a minor). No visitors of any age with respiratory or flu-like symptoms (cold, cough, fever, muscle aches) will be allowed to visit patients or wait in the facility. No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to visit patients. Cafeteria services are limited to staff and individuals visiting a patient.

### Living Well in Wabash County offers food, transportation, support

Wabash County Public Transportation will operate regular hours and services throughout Wabash County until otherwise announced. Dispatch will continue to be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to handle schedule cancellations and requests. The Community Cupboard pantry will operate as a drive-through with regular pantry hours, which are from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays; closed Wednesdays; and open from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. Senior lunches at Winchester Senior Center will be operated as a drive-through at the front door of the senior center from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch reservations continue to require 48 business hours of reservations. Seniors age 60 and older wanting a lunch must call Winchester Senior Center at 260-563-4475. To reduce senior isolation, the Friendly Caller Program may be reached by calling 260-563-4475 to request a daily call to check in on you during this time when seniors will be home more than usual.

### Access Youth Center offers free lunch sack on weekdays

The Access Youth Center’s Drive-Thru will be open from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and feature a lunch sack of snacks, protein and fruit provided at the door. On Monday and Tuesday it will take place on the south side, New Journey Community Church, 1721 N. Vernon St. Wednesday through Friday downtown at the AYC headquarters at 74 W. Canal St. For more information, visit www.accessyouthcenter.org or call 260-563-2070.

### Second Harvest Food Bank seeks volunteers, donations

Those who are interested in

volunteering may contact Kellie Arrowood, volunteer coordinator for Second Harvest, by calling the office at 765-287-8698, emailing karrowood@curehunger.org or visiting www.CureHunger.org.

### Winchester Senior Center events canceled

The Swing into Spring Party on Thursday, March 19 and the Wabash Community Band concert on Sunday, March 22 at Winchester Senior Center have been canceled.

### Rotary Club of North Manchester cancels its Thursday meeting

The Rotary Club of North Manchester has canceled its Thursday, March 19 meeting. The group will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and hopes to meet as scheduled on March 26 at the North Manchester Center for History, 122 E. Main St., North Manchester.

### Wabash Kiwanis Club's Pancake Day postponed

The Wabash Kiwanis Club Board of Directors has officially voted to postpone Pancake Day, originally scheduled for March 14, to a later date, which will be determined as soon as possible.

### NMCH to host Smithsonian traveling exhibit

The North Manchester Center for History will be hosting the Smithsonian’s traveling exhibit, “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” from March 21 to May 3 at 122 E. Main St., North Manchester.

### Manchester invites high school students to submit compositions

The Manchester University Department of Music seeks high school composers for its first Composition Workshop and Reading Session on Wednesday, April 8. They are invited to submit original compositions to be performed and recorded by Manchester University faculty musicians. The deadline is March 23. Send submissions to Reed at tmreed@manchester.edu. Submissions should include a score (PDF or Finale file); contact information with name, phone number and mailing address; and name of high school currently attending. There is no fee to submit. Selected composers will be contacted with details about the evening event via email.

### Celebrate Ivy Tech in Wabash at Monopoly Night

Ivy Tech Community College is

hosting its 11th annual Wabash Monopoly Night from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 24 in the Parkview Health Ballroom of Eagles Theatre, 106 W. Market St. This event is open to the community. Guests must RSVP by April 15 to Laura Leichty by email at lleichty@ivytech.edu or by phone 260-481-2243.

### Comedian Michael Palascak to perform at Lagro benefit event

“Dia de Lagro” will take place Tuesday, May 5 at the Eads Barn, 4725 E. 200 North, Urbana. Appetizers, cocktails, singer Kimberly Rutledge and Emcee Reed Christiansen are set to begin at 5:30 p.m. A Mexican-themed dinner, catered by Gallery 64, will begin at 6 p.m. with comedian Michael Palascak taking the stage at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$75 each, \$125 per couple or \$500 for a table of eight. For more information, visit lagrocanalfoundation.com. Those interested in donating prizes for the silent auction or would like to become a main sponsor may email lagrocanalfoundation@gmail.com.

### Farmers market season set to begin May 16

The Downtown Wabash Farmers Market opens from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16 in the Honeywell Center/Wabash Elk’s Parking Lot. The market occurs every Saturday through Sept. 26. If you are interested in becoming a vendor or volunteering at the event, call 260-563-0975 or visit www.wabashmarketplace.org.

### NMPL reschedules St. Paddy's Golden Egg Hunt

The free, all-ages event, now a “Summer Reading Themed Egg Hunt,” has been rescheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, June 13 at the North Manchester Public Library.

### WCPL plans summer reading, ‘Bash Con

‘Bash Con is set to last from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 26 at 188 W. Hill St. ‘Bash Con’s theme for this year is “Imagine Your Story” and free booth space is available for artists and vendors. Amateur artists are encouraged and welcomed. To register, visit https://www.wabash.lib.in.us/bash-con. For more information, call 260-563-2972.

*Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplainedealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.*



# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
[Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov](mailto:Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov)

**State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
[h18@in.gov](mailto:h18@in.gov)

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: [www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl](http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl)

## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to [news@wabashplainedeal.com](mailto:news@wabashplainedeal.com) with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



## DAILY SCRIPTURE

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Matthew 5:44

# Flu vs. COVID-19: Here are the facts

When sirens sound and storm clouds threaten, Minnesotans head to their basements or severe weather shelters. They don't stand around scoffing at a tornado's imminent danger because statistics show that far more people die each year from heart disease, cancer or car accidents than twisters.

Yet even with the World Health Organization officially declaring COVID-19 a pandemic, there remains a stubborn skepticism about the serious risk posed by this new coronavirus strain. Over the past week, this has surfaced in reckless comments about "overreacting" made by small but diverse set of public figures, including Jerry Falwell Jr. and sportscaster Clay Travis.

Many justifying their denialism cite the yearly death toll from influenza to downplay the new COVID-19 threat, a point that President Donald Trump regrettably made until recently and one that is still embraced by too many Americans. While it's true that influenza complications kill thousands of Americans each year, COVID-19 is so new that no one knows what its death toll might be.

Saying "But the flu is worse" is the equivalent of standing next to the living room's large picture window as a funnel cloud descends from the sky. Yes, far more people die from

causes other than a tornado, but the circumstances of this storm require taking protective action.

Unfortunately, delaying or avoiding such measures doesn't just put you or your family members at risk. It appears that those infected with COVID-19 may be contagious even if they aren't showing symptoms. The virus can also live on surfaces for hours or possibly days. Social distancing, such as telecommuting and avoiding crowds, is critical to breaking the chain of infection in the broader community.

If you are still seeing flu statistics being used to dismiss COVID-19, consider these additional points:

COVID-19 presents many unknowns. The virus is so new that it's difficult to predict how many people may be infected or how many may die from it. But what scientists do know from its early spread is that the mortality rate appears to be 10 times that of seasonal influenza. Dr. Tony Fauci, a member of the nation's COVID-19 task force, made this alarming point clear in congressional testimony this week.

A COVID-19 vaccine is at least a year away. An influenza vaccine has been available for decades, and it's tweaked each year to adjust for the circulating strains. There is currently no vaccine for COVID-19 and one remains a year away at best even as researchers expedite

development. Testing for safety and efficacy is still critical, and few shortcuts are available.

There are no approved medications for COVID-19. Antiviral medications such as Tamiflu exist for influenza. Scientists are racing to find something similar for COVID-19, but clinical studies for one promising candidate, a drug called remdesivir, are just getting underway. Right now, medical care is supportive, meaning symptoms are assessed and managed.

Hospital capacity is already strained. Influenza often fills up hospital rooms as it makes its winter rounds. COVID-19 would add to this caseload at the worst possible time.

There is limited testing for COVID-19. Commercial labs will hopefully soon expand the nation's testing capacity, but constraints on this have weakened efforts to track the virus's spread.

There is simply no excuse for failing to take COVID-19 seriously. We all have a role to play as this viral storm blows in, with rigorous hygiene, social distancing and canceling events critically important. The weeks and months ahead will be a challenge, but the sacrifices are necessary to protect those most at risk — our loved ones who are elderly or have underlying health conditions. They are worth it.

*This editorial was first published in the Star Tribune.*

## LETTERS

### Red Cross calls for increased blood donations during COVID-19 crisis

#### Editor,

As the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to impact our communities, we need help ensuring we have a sufficient blood supply to support hospital patients in Indiana and across the country. The American Red Cross is working to continue delivering our mission, including the collection of lifesaving blood, but we have had a staggering number of scheduled Red Cross blood drives canceled as more workplaces, college campuses and other venues send people home and encourage social distancing. Disruptions to blood donations can lead to shortages and cause delays in essential medical care. As of March 17, about 2,700 drives, representing approximately 86,000 fewer blood donations, have been canceled in the U.S. due to COVID-19 concerns.

As concerns about the coronavirus pandemic rise, we have three vital messages for the public:

1. Donating blood is a safe process and people should not be concerned about giving or receiving blood during this challenging time.
2. More healthy donors are needed to give now to prevent a blood shortage.
3. Schedule an appointment to donate using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), or calling 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767).

As an emergency preparedness organization, the Red Cross has also taken additional steps to ensure the safety of staff and donors at each Red Cross blood drive:

■ The Red Cross only collects blood from individuals who are healthy and feeling well at the time of donation — and who meet other eligibility requirements, available at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).

■ We are now pre-screening all individuals by checking their temperature before they enter any Red Cross blood drive or donation center, including our own staff and volunteers.

■ At each blood drive and donation center, Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols including wearing gloves, routinely wiping down donor-touched areas, using sterile collection sets for every donation, and preparing the arm for donation with an aseptic scrub.

■ Additional spacing has been implemented within each blood drive set up to incorporate social distancing measures between donation beds and stations within the blood drive.

■ The average blood drives are only 20-30 people and are not large gatherings.

These mitigation measures will help to keep blood recipients, staff and donors safe.

The Red Cross is also working to ensure we can continue to carry out other aspects of our lifesaving mission, including providing critical disaster relief services. We are working with public health officials to ensure the safety of local communities and our workforce, while still providing the help and hope they need should disaster strike.

We're asking the American people to give blood during this challenging time. Those who are healthy, feeling well and eligible to give blood or platelets, are urged to make an appointment to donate.

By Chad Priest  
Chief Executive Officer,  
American Red Cross, Indiana Region

## HISTORY

Today is Thursday, March 19, the 79th day of 2020. There are 287 days left in the year. Spring arrives at 11:50 p.m. EDT, the earliest the vernal equinox has occurred in 124 years.

#### Highlight in history:

On March 19, 1966, the Texas Western Miners defeated the heavily favored Kentucky Wildcats, 72-65, to win the NCAA Championship played in College Park, Maryland; making the contest especially noteworthy was that Texas Western became the first basketball team to start five black players in a national title game as it faced an all-white Kentucky squad.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former White House national security adviser Brent Scowcroft is 95. Actress Renee Taylor is 87. Actress Ursula Andress is 84. Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 83. Singer Ruth Pointer (The Pointer Sisters) is 74. Actress Glenn Close is 73. Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein is 68. Actor Bruce Willis is 65. Actress-comedian Mary Scheer is 57. Playwright Neil LaBute is 57. Actor Connor Trinneer is 51. Rock musician Gert Bettens (K's Choice) is 50. Rapper Bun B is 47. Rock musician Zach Lind (Jimmy Eat World) is 44. Actress Virginia Williams is 42. Actress Abby Brammell is 41. MLB pitcher Clayton Kershaw is 32. Actor Craig Lamar Traylor is 31. Actor Philip Bolden is 25.

**Thought for Today:** "The heaviest baggage for a traveler is an empty purse." — German proverb.

#### On this date:

In 1687, French explorer Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, the first European to navigate the length of the Mississippi River, was murdered by mutineers in present-day Texas.

In 1917, a divided U.S. Supreme Court, in *Wilson v. New*, upheld, 5-4, the eight-hour work day for interstate railroad workers.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1945, during World War II, 724 people were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked the carrier USS Franklin off Japan (the ship was saved). Adolf Hitler ordered the destruction of German facilities that could fall into Allied hands in his so-called "Nero Decree," which was largely disregarded.

In 1953, the Academy Awards ceremony was televised for the first time; "The Greatest Show on Earth" was named best picture of 1952.

In 1977, the series finale of "Mary Tyler Moore" aired on CBS-TV, ending the situation comedy's seven-season run.

In 1979, the U.S. House of Representatives began televising its floor proceedings; the live feed was carried by C-SPAN (Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network), which was making its debut.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.



# The virus and city finance

By JASON ARP

On Friday the 13th, I attended an emergency meeting of local government officials regarding the novel coronavirus. A variety of city and county elected officials from all corners of Allen County were convened for a briefing from the county health department. After an assortment of scary words, like "pandemic," "quarantine" and "police power" were pronounced, we were treated to a few statistics, none different than what you are seeing on the news. These were married to news clippings from 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic. Ultimately, we received encouragement to keep our hands clean and avoid large groups.

My constituents need to know, too, that this will have especially severe financial costs for Fort Wayne, whose council majority has borrowed on the foolish assumption that such an event would never occur, a misjudgment to be addressed later in this article.

As I write, of course, the ultimate course of the Wuhan Flu episode is unknown. For all we know it could end up having health effects on this country anywhere on a scale between the annual flu and the 1918 version. Given the uncertainty and lack of tangible information, it is unprecedented to close the schools for nearly a month and cancel all meetings of groups larger than 250 people.

In my 46 years I've only seen this level of anxiety once, the days following 9/11. My church, and many others around the country did not hold

services this Sunday. This is the only time I can ever remember this happening. The level of fear of something that may be a threat is astonishing.

One can be fairly certain, however, that these actions by government agencies, whether justified or not, are going to have material consequences on the economic outlook for the remainder of the year, perhaps longer. Whether masses of people are going to get sick from the virus remains to be seen, but without doubt millions are going to lose their jobs because of the actions being taken now.

Individuals, businesses and governments in the U.S. have accumulated debts that have in aggregate approached the levels prior to the last recession. High levels of debt increase earnings ratios in good times, however a downturn in sales and economic activity often means bankruptcy. For those that have borrowed for their catering business or restaurant, they will be cutting expenses back and laying off employees, if not closing their doors forever. The employees will be buying fewer TVs and cars. The government's reaction to a possible flu epidemic has ensured a sharp recession.

As a city councilman, I have to worry about whether the city government will be able to continue to provide the services needed to protect the lives, liberty and property in the manner taxpayers have come to expect. An economic downturn will mean lower tax revenues than recent years. Since the council majority spends nearly every penny we receive, a reduction in revenue necessarily means a

decrease in expenditures.

The bigger problem comes from the level of financial leverage the city has taken on. Through bonding (direct loans) or structured leases (same effect as borrowing) the city has amassed financial obligations that have to be paid first. Economic development projects to construct garages, office towers and apartments have been made the first fiscal priority. Again, when the inevitable economic downturn occurs, these bonds and leases have to be paid in order to avoid bankruptcy. That means the reductions in spending will have to occur in police, fire and street-department budgets to the extent they don't have longterm contracts.

The disregard of financial prudence in the fat times ensures that lean times will be even leaner. The city will have to decide whether to further raise taxes in order to maintain the level of critical services citizens are accustomed to, or to allow the number of police officers and firefighters to dwindle.

On the other hand, fiscal prudence during good times allows people in all walks of life to live fearlessly during crisis. That is the lesson usually taught by hard times. Clearly, most government officials didn't learn it a decade ago in the last recession. They never do.

*Jason Arp, for nine years a trader in mortgage-backed securities for Bank of America, was recently reelected to a second term representing the 4th District on the Fort Wayne City Council. Arp has served on the Redevelopment Commission, the Community Legacy Investment Committee and as co-chair of the Finance Committee of the Common Council.*



# Food

## Honest cooking

By **LYNDA BALSLEV**

This dish is no-drama with honest ingredients. During a busy week, its simplicity and flavor are a welcome and uncomplicated interlude. Crisp-tender broccolini spears and plump, briny shrimp mingle in a quick-cooked, three-ingredient tomato sauce infused with garlic. It's fresh and bright, and can be whipped up in 30 minutes for a healthy week-night dinner that's low-maintenance and utterly delicious.

A series of quick steps ensures that each ingredient is perfectly cooked before tossing the whole lot together. The broccolini and shrimp are sauteed with crushed red pepper flakes and olive oil long enough to brighten in color and amplify their flavor, without overcooking and rendering them dull and limp. A simple Italian plum tomato sauce simmers with garlic to blend and thicken before binding the dish. A final flourish of fresh basil is added to the mix, letting the heat of the pasta wilt the leaves and release their perfume.

This short list of ingredients is accessible, straight-

forward and, well, honest. In return, it demands the best ingredients you can find for optimum flavor and freshness.

**Spaghetti With Shrimp, Broccolini and Basil**

**Active Time:** 30 minutes  
**Total Time:** 30 minutes  
**Yield:** Serves 4

**3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided**  
**12 ounces broccolini, ends trimmed, cut into bite-size pieces**  
**Crushed red pepper flakes**  
**Salt**  
**1 pound large (20/24) shrimp, peeled and deveined, with tails intact**  
**1 large garlic clove, minced**  
**1 (28-ounce) can Italian plum tomatoes with juice**  
**Pinch of sugar, optional**  
**Freshly ground black pepper**  
**1 pound spaghetti or linguine**  
**½ cup whole basil leaves, torn if large, plus extra for garnish**

Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add the broccolini, a pinch of red pepper flakes, and lightly season with salt. Sauté the broccolini until bright in color and crisp-tender, 3 to 4 minutes.

Transfer to a bowl.

Add 1 tablespoon oil to the same skillet. Add the shrimp in one layer with a pinch of red pepper flakes and season with salt. Cook over medium heat until pink on both sides and just cooked through, 3 to 4 minutes, turning as needed. Transfer the shrimp to the bowl with the broccolini.

Add 1 tablespoon olive oil to the same skillet. Add the garlic and sauté until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add the tomatoes, ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. Simmer over medium-low heat until slightly thickened, 8 to 10 minutes, breaking the tomatoes apart with a spoon. Taste for seasoning and add additional salt and/or a pinch of sugar if desired.

While the sauce is simmering, bring a large pot of generously salted water to a rolling boil. Add the spaghetti and cook until al dente. Drain the spaghetti and transfer to the skillet with the sauce. Add the shrimp, broccolini and basil, and stir to combine.

Transfer to a serving bowl and garnish with freshly ground black pepper and additional basil leaves.



Provided photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

The broccolini and shrimp are sauteed with crushed red pepper flakes and olive oil long enough to brighten in color and amplify their flavor, without overcooking and rendering them dull and limp.



Provided photo

This chili relies upon the flavorful combination of hearty whole grain sorghum, black beans, corn, peppers, onions, celery and seasonings.

## Tex-mex sorghum chili

By **SHARON PALMER, MSFS, RDN**

This chili relies upon the flavorful combination of hearty whole grain sorghum, black beans, corn, peppers, onions, celery and seasonings.

One way to boost your disease protection is to infuse your diet with more healthy, wholesome whole grains like sorghum. This ancient, nutrient-rich whole grain is a nutritional powerhouse and also happens to be gluten-free! Unlike other grains, it has no inedible hull, which allows you to eat the entire grain and reap the benefits. Just ½ cup of cooked sorghum packs 6 grams of fiber and 4 grams of protein. Sorghum is also rich in iron and phosphorus, which help foster red blood cell development and bone health.

Try this recipe for Tex-Mex Sorghum Chili to incorporate more whole grains into your diet. It's best to include more whole grains, like sorghum, in your meals to fill your diet with fiber, as fiber is linked to reducing the risk of colorectal cancer.

**Ingredients**

**2 cups dried black beans**  
**1 ½ cups dried whole grain sorghum**  
**4 cups water**  
**4 cups vegetable broth**  
**3 stalks celery, diced**  
**1 large onion, diced**  
**3 cloves garlic, minced**  
**1 green bell pepper, diced**  
**1 cup yellow corn, frozen or canned, drained**  
**1 14.5-ounce can fire-roasted, crushed tomatoes with juice**  
**2 Tbsp. tomato paste**  
**3 Tbsp. Mexican seasoning blend**  
**Salt to taste (optional)**

Makes 10 servings.

Per serving: 272 calories, 2 g total fat (0 g saturated fat), 56 g carbohydrates, 13 g protein, 9 g dietary fiber, 245 mg sodium, 5 g sugar.

**Directions**

Place beans in a large pot, cover with water and soak overnight.

The next day, discard the water, and add 4 cups fresh water and 4 cups vegetable broth. Add dried sorghum, stir well, cover and simmer over medium-low heat for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add celery, onion, garlic, pepper, corn, tomatoes, tomato paste, and Mexican seasoning blend. Stir well to combine. Cover and simmer for an additional 45 minutes, stirring occasionally, until beans, sorghum, and vegetables are tender. May need to add additional water

lost to evaporation. Should make a thick stew-like texture.

Serve in bowls and garnish as desired with tortilla chips, fresh avocado slices, green onion slices, chopped fresh cilantro, and chopped fresh tomatoes.

**Tips**

May use prepared Mexican seasoning blend, or make your own with chili powder, cumin, paprika, oregano, cilantro, and cayenne pepper.

Garnish (as desired): tortilla chips, fresh avocado slices, green onion slices, chopped fresh cilantro, chopped fresh tomatoes.

*This recipe is by Sharon Palmer, RDN, The PlantPowered Dietitian. She is a Los Angeles-based, award-winning food and nutrition writer, plant-based food expert, and author of Plant-Powered for Life and The Plant-Powered Blog.*

## Food banks face virus dilemma: More demand, fewer volunteers

By **SCOTT MCFETRIDGE**  
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — With the new coronavirus leaving many people at least temporarily out of work, food banks and pantries across the U.S. are scrambling to meet an expected surge in demand, even as older volunteers have been told to stay home and calls for social distancing have complicated efforts to package and distribute food.

Food banks have for years been increasing the amount of food they deliver to pantries that pass it along to needy people, but the economic upheaval caused by COVID-19 is expected to cause demand to skyrocket. Meeting the need would be tough enough, but the response has been complicated by a virus that requires people to avoid the kind of close interaction typical in food packaging and distribution.

"We're getting through it," said Matt Unger, who heads the Des Moines Area Religious Council's network of 14 pantries. "We're going to do this as long as we can, as good as we can until we run out of adaptations."

The virus has caused a reversal in how pantries provide food, shifting from letting people select items in what amount to mini-groceries to giving them a sack filled with food. Giving people control over what they select gives them dignity and reduces waste, but giving them pre-filled sacks enables quicker interactions with less chance of passing along the virus.

The sacks also require a lot more work by staff and volunteers who must sort and package items.

That extra work comes even as pantries tell their

many older volunteers to stay away. They also are accepting help only from smaller groups, rather than the 50 or 60 people from churches or service clubs who typically join to offer a night or weekend of free help.

"Everyone needs to be spaced out with less interaction," said Kelly Ptacek, the vice president for external affairs at Omaha, Nebraska-based Food Bank for the Heartland. "We've become less efficient as we pack those boxes, but I'll take less efficient operations over no operations."

In the Seattle area, which leads the nation in coronavirus deaths, getting volunteers at all has been difficult.

"Yeah, we've been seeing our clientele go up in the past week and our volunteers have been staying home because of the coronavirus and there has been actually less food as people have been hoarding," said Stephen Kreins, operations manager at the Queen Anne Food Bank. "That hasn't hit us as hard as the volunteers."

If the need to change their operations is new, the demand to provide more food has become the norm in the past decade as even many people with full-time jobs struggle to cover expenses.

The Chicago-based group Feeding America, which provides groceries to 200 food banks across the country, last year distributed 4.9 billion pounds of food, more than twice as much as a decade before.

## Virus shutdown hits France's core

By **ELAINE GANLEY**  
Associated Press

PARIS — What's it like in France after government orders restaurants and bistros to close to contain the spreading coronavirus?

Eerily quiet. No one drinking coffee in sidewalk cafes. A punch in the gut to France's well-known joie de vivre.

Paris is "like a horse without a rider," said Mohamed Fatnassi, the man in charge of evening service at the famed

Closerie des Lilas bar and restaurant.

He spoke early Sunday, just after the ban came into effect. By then, the Left Bank restaurant and bar had emptied, for who knows how long. The abrupt closure order from the prime minister came in the midst of France's dinner hour Saturday night: all eateries should shut at midnight, indefinitely.

"This is an institution ... Everyone has been through here," Fatnassi said, citing

Ernest Hemingway, Pablo Picasso and even Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin, who lived in exile in a nearby district.

Cafes and eateries have been an essential part of the fabric of social life in France since the first cafe appeared in 17th-century Paris. Today, in villages, the local cafe is often the only place to come together with neighbors. They're so essential to social cohesion that the French government has launched a plan to ensure they survive.

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## Reds' employee in Arizona tests positive

CINCINNATI (AP) — An employee who worked at the Cincinnati Reds spring training complex in Goodyear, Ariz., has tested positive for the new coronavirus, the ballclub announced Wednesday.

The employee lives in Arizona and has been self-quarantined, along with other members of the Reds staff who were in close contact. The employee worked at the complex from Feb. 29 through March 14.

Major League Baseball has shut down spring training and pushed back the start of the season until at least mid-May because of the pandemic.

While players in the NBA and the NHL have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, no Major League Baseball player is known to have been infected. Two New York Yankees minor leaguers have tested positive for the virus.

On Tuesday, the Ottawa Senators announced that one of their players — who wasn't identified — had tested positive, the first known case in the NHL.

The virus cases only mild or moderate symptoms for most people, such as a cough and fever. Older adults and those with existing health problems can develop more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the virus. Those with a mild illness recover in about two weeks, according to the World Health Organization, while those with more severe forms make take three to six weeks.

## Clippers' Terance Mann has surgery on hand

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Clippers guard Terance Mann has had surgery to repair a ligament in his right hand, the team said Wednesday.

The surgery was performed Tuesday. Mann was injured during a game on March 8 while on assignment with the team's G League affiliate in Ontario, California. No timetable for his return has been set.

Mann has averaged 1.6 points and 1.1 assists in 35 games for the Clippers this season. The first-year guard out of Florida State played 20 games in the G League, averaging 15.4 points, 8.8 rebounds and 5.7 assists.

## Submit your news

The *Plain Dealer* is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

■ Emailed to sports@wabashplainedealer.com.

■ Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.

■ Mailed into *Plain Dealer*, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Organizations or individuals emailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The *Plain Dealer* reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.



Jacob Rude / Plain Dealer

Wabash's Trenton Dauhty (left) holds the ball near midcourt during the second half of the Apaches sectional game against Fort Wayne Canterbury.

# Trio of Apaches lead way in All-TRC basketball team

By JACOB RUDE

sports@wabashplainedealer.com

After racing through the conference with an unblemished, the Wabash boys' basketball team placed three players on the Three Rivers Conference (TRC) All-Conference team.

Trenton Dauhty, Elijah Vander Velden and Dereck Vogel all earned spots on the All-TRC team. Wabash and Peru each had three players on the team with the Tigers placing Trey Curtis, Daunte Majors and Matt Ross on the team.

Southwood's Carson Rich,

Manchester's Weston Hamby and Northfield's Clayton Tomlinson all earned spots from Wabash County. The rest of the All-TRC team was comprised of Maconaquah's Sam Bourne, North Miami's Tristan Working, Rochester's Grant McCarter and Quinn Stesiak, Tippecanoe Valley's Tanner Trippiedi and Whitko's Brett Sickafoose.

Wabash finished the TRC season with an unbeaten 9-0 record, winning by an average of 11.1 points per game on the season. Peru and Maconaquah tied for second with 7-2 records. Southwood finished with a 5-4 mark to

take fifth, Manchester was sixth with a 4-5 mark and Northfield was ninth with a 1-8 mark.

Sickafoose led the TRC in scoring at 23.7 points per game while Rich was second at 17.8 per game. Dauhty was fourth at 14.8 points per game.

Ross and Vander Velden were first and second in the TRC in rebounding, respectively, with 10.7 and 8.9 rebounds per game. Weston Hamby led the TRC in assists with 6.7 dimes per game.

Tomlinson did a bit of everything for the Norse, averaging 13.6 points, 4.5 assists,

4.3 rebounds and 3.3 steals per contest. The junior point guard led Northfield in each of those categories on the season.

Southwood and Rochester were the only two TRC teams to win sectional titles. The Knights defeated Lakeland Christian Academy 78-25 in the Southern Wells sectional finals while Rochester knocked off Rensselaer Central in double overtime, 60-52, at the Winamac sectional.

Both schools, though, saw their regionals postponed as the IHSAA delayed the tournament across the state indefinitely.

# Kansas finishes No. 1 in final AP college basketball poll; Gonzaga, Dayton next

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Basketball Writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas coach Bill Self has spent much of the past week mulling ways to commemorate one of the more remarkable seasons in the school's proud basketball history, one that began with off-the-court distractions too numerous to count and ended in the unprecedented cancellation of the NCAA Tournament.

The Jayhawks can start by celebrating their finish atop the final Top 25 from The Associated Press.

The regular-season Big 12 champions, who were 28-3 when the season abruptly ended after the first day of the conference tournament last week, received 63 of 65 first-place votes from a national media panel in balloting released Wednesday. That easily outdistanced No. 2 Gonzaga and No. 3 Dayton, each of which received a first-place vote.

"Nobody in America had better season than we did," Self said. "How do you give credit to that effort and have it be recognized? And I don't know exactly how we do it. Do we do it within our own fan base? Do we do it within podcasts or whatnot? Whatever we've come up with so far pales in comparison to the accolades they deserve."

It's the fourth time since the inception of the men's poll for the 1946-47 season that Kansas finished on top, though typically there would still be March Madness to play. The AP does not declare a national champion in the sport because of the tournament.

The final rankings were based on play through March 11, when the out-

break of the coronavirus brought the sport to a halt.

The Jayhawks claim five national championships, the most recent in 2008 after they beat Memphis in the NCAA Tournament title game. But despite a season in which 353 teams played thousands of games and Kansas finished as the clear-cut No. 1, the school's Hall of Fame coach was unwilling to stake claim to any kind of championship.

"That's not the way this is all intended to be," Self

said. "Coaches prepare their teams to peak at certain times. I'm proud of how our team prepared all season but especially at the end of the season, we were terrific. We operated under some pressure and dealt with some stuff. From our standpoint, sure, that would be great, but even if that were to occur, there would be a huge asterisk next to it, and I would agree with that."

Gonzaga (31-2) finished second after beating Saint Mary's in the West Coast

Conference finals, one of a handful of league tournaments that were completed. But the Bulldogs will be left to wonder whether another dominant team from coach Mark Few would have finally delivered the school a national championship.

Dayton (29-2) was third behind behind breakout stars Jalen Crutcher and Obi Toppin. That matched the 1955-56 team led by Bill Uhl and Jim Paxson for the best finish in program history.

# Olympic leaders back IOC's Tokyo stance after rare criticism

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

Associated Press

GENEVA — Regional Olympic officials on Wednesday rallied around the IOC and backed its stance on opening the Tokyo Games as scheduled, as direct criticism from gold medalist athletes built amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Leaders of continental Olympic groups praised the IOC after a conference call to update them on coronavirus issues four months before the opening ceremony in Tokyo on July 24.

"We are living through an unpredictable crisis and as such, it is important that we have one policy, expressed by the IOC, and we follow that policy in unison," the Italy-based European Olympic Committees said.

However, when the International Olympic Committee published an interview with its president, Thomas Bach, after a separate call with athlete representatives, it prompted a four-time Olympic champion to urge postponing the games.

Bach acknowledged that many athletes were concerned about qualifying events being canceled, but noted that there were still four months to go until the games are set to be opened. "We will keep acting in a responsible way in the interests of the athletes," Bach said.

British rowing great Matthew Pinsent wrote on Twitter that the comments from Bach, his former IOC colleague, were "tone deaf."

"The instinct to keep safe (not to mention obey govt instructions to lock down) is not compatible with athlete training, travel and focus that a looming Olympics demands of athletes, spectators organisers," Pinsent wrote. "Keep them safe. Call it off."

On Tuesday, one of the IOC's 100 members had broken ranks in a rare public criticism of the body's unwavering strategy.

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# Transgender classmate isn't ready for romance with teen

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm 16 and have had trouble with romance for as long as I can remember. I've had almost 80 crushes since kindergarten. I counted.

Right now I am close to a relationship with a boy at my school who is a year older. I have had feelings for "Ben" for almost a year, and I found it was mutual a few months ago. He invited me to coffee but later canceled, explaining that he wasn't emotionally prepared, which was clear. He feels the way he does for a reason. Ben is a transgender male, and his mother disapproves, as do many of our classmates.

Two months ago, we agreed to be "just friends ... for now." Since then, no feelings have changed for either of us. However, I know Ben isn't ready, largely because of his mother's and his classmates' influence.

I'm getting impatient. I've been in relationships before, the middle-school kind, and I know how my brain functions. Right now, I worry obsessively about how he feels. This will subside after a real relationship starts. But before that happens, the issue is all-consuming. I constantly rehash concerns we need to talk about in my mind, and I don't know how to ignore them until we can speak again. It makes my grades suffer.

I blame Ben's mother and classmates for the stress he's under. They're the reason for his dysphoria and panic attacks. I'm angry. I want her to leave her son alone. How can I wait peacefully and get over my bitterness toward his mother? — Crushing Teen In Ohio

**DEAR TEEN:** Anger, frustration and bitterness can make people sick. You need to find ways to get your mind off this budding romance and channel these negative emotions, if only because Ben isn't ready for what you have in mind. Bear in mind that he is on a long and complicated journey. (Give him props for honesty.) Then buckle down and concentrate on your schoolwork, find a sport or other activity you can involve yourself in and, if your school doesn't have a Gender and Sexualities Alliance, consider going online to gsa-network.org and starting one at your school.

**DEAR ABBY:** I work in the medical field in a family practice. I love my job and helping people, but the problem is, my boss never tells the truth to our patients and overcharges them anytime he gets a chance. The sicker the patient, the more heartless he is with them. He has told some patients that we, the assistants, told him they owe him money.

It has reached a point where I cannot handle it anymore. Knowing that I see everything he does, he now can't stand me and constantly criticizes everything I do. He has become verbally aggressive and abusive.

I know this is unhealthy for me. I have insomnia because of it, and when I do get to sleep, I have nightmares about this situation. Abby, please help me because I do not know what service to contact to make a complaint against him. — Scared In Georgia

**DEAR SCARED:** Document everything you have observed. Then talk to your local police about possible fraud being committed by your employer. Next, contact your state medical board and report what has been going on at the expense of the patients. If these patients are senior citizens, reach out to your Area Agency on Aging (aging.georgia.gov/locations), because the "good doctor" may be committing elder abuse, which could land him in the prison system.

## CROSSWORD

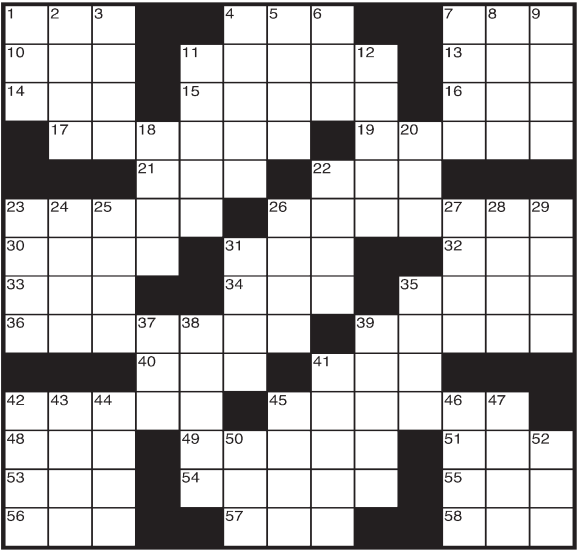
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31 Overly  
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36 Funny — Diller  
39 "Wonder —"  
40 — on a limb

### DOWN

- 1 Health club  
2 Nessie's hangout  
3 Abominable Snowman  
4 Cool in manner  
5 Lectern's place  
6 AMA members  
7 Small room  
8 Sacred bird of Egypt  
9 Mr. Eban  
11 Try for a job  
12 Southwest scenery  
18 Not flunk  
20 Get older  
22 Carrot or beet  
23 Steal a glance  
24 Graceful entryway  
25 Priam was its king  
26 Proposal killers  
27 Cannon roar  
28 Verdi's princess  
29 Hidden valley  
31 Kid  
35 Machine teeth  
37 Spanish article  
38 Pear-shaped instruments  
39 Squander  
41 Handbag logo  
42 Dock  
43 Golden Rule word  
44 Shangri-la  
45 Singer — Turner  
46 Roman historian  
47 McClurg of sitcoms  
50 Spirit  
52 Got a load of

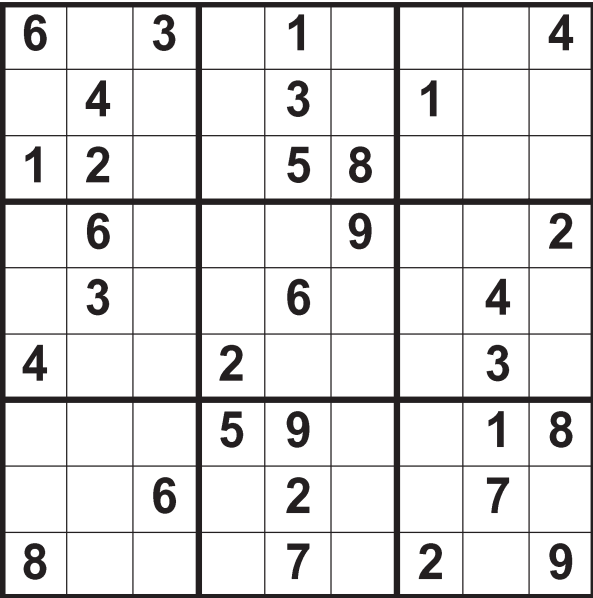
Answer to Previous Puzzle



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## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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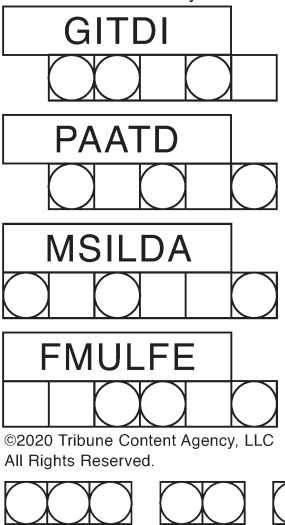
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

2	3	1	9	6	4	8	5	7
4	9	6	7	5	8	1	2	3
5	8	7	1	3	2	9	6	4
1	7	2	5	9	3	6	4	8
3	6	9	8	4	1	5	7	2
8	5	4	6	2	7	3	9	1
6	1	3	4	7	5	2	8	9
7	2	5	3	8	9	4	1	6
9	4	8	2	1	6	7	3	5

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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Yesterday's Jumbles: LOBBY KNOWN CANCEL KOSHER  
Answer: Being near the expensive door handles meant the low-cost ones were able to — "HOB-KNOB"

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

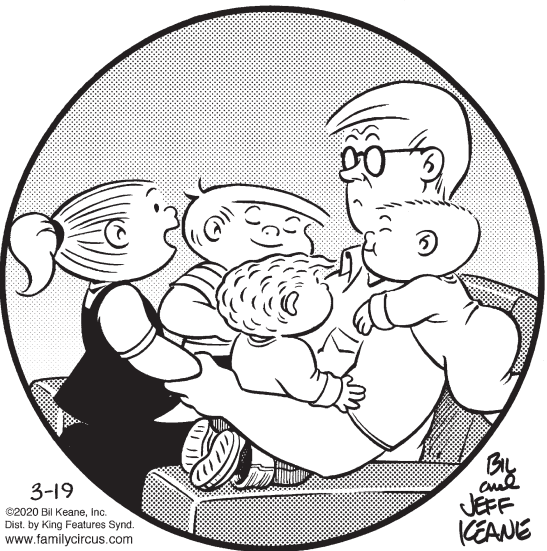


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

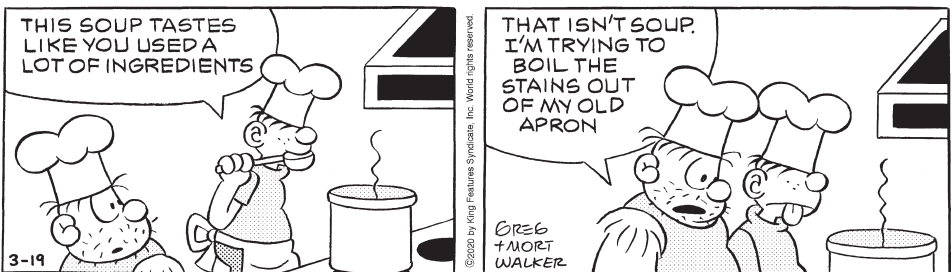
## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

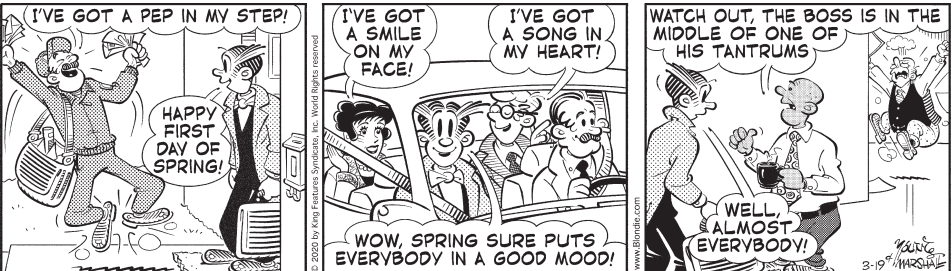


“Tell us about the whale that swallowed you, Daddy, and the dragon, and bein’ baked in a pie...”

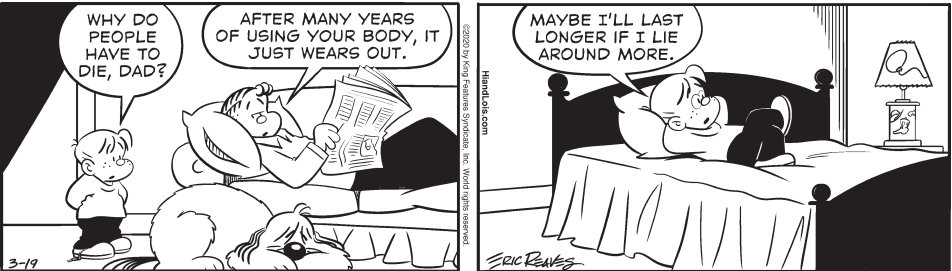
## BEETLE BAILEY



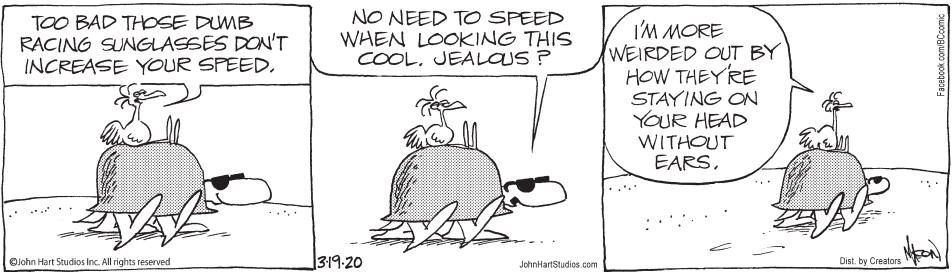
## BLONDIE



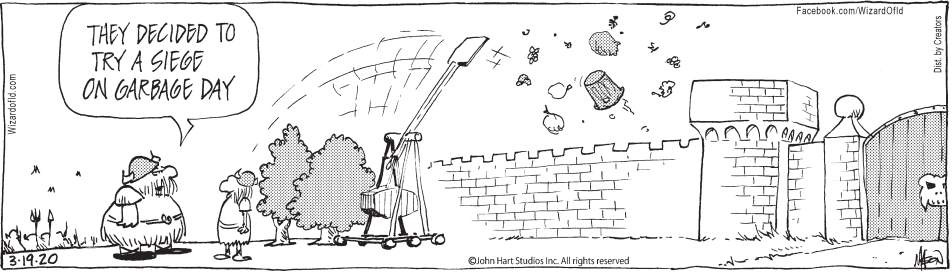
## HI & LOIS



## BC



## WIZARD OF ID



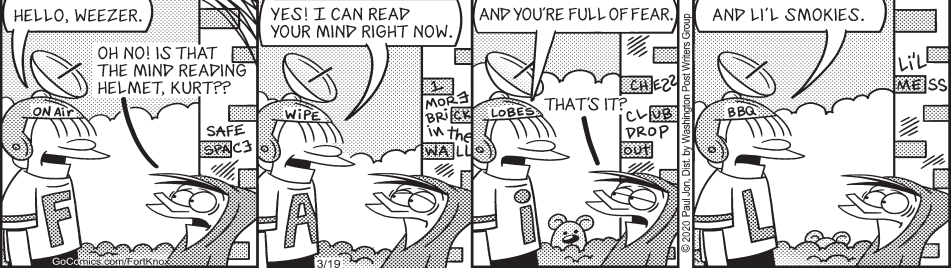
## DILBERT



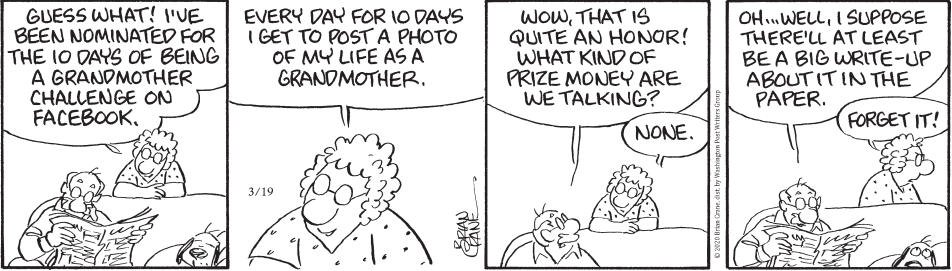
## GARFIELD



## FORT KNOX



## PICKLES



# Bring everything in your life to God in prayer

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

**Q:** Recently I was saved through the witness of a co-worker. He said the most important thing to do was to pray. What should I pray about? — N.B.

**A:** When souls are saved, a desire to be nourished from God's Word is of utmost importance. Bring everything in your life to God in prayer and watch how He answers through the reading of Scripture. This is how God's children have fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

Be faithful in reading the Bible, praying for God's guidance and strength each day, seeking the fellowship

of other believers as part of Christ's church, and share your new faith with those who are still wandering in darkness. The church is the Body of Christ on earth, and it is important to join with other followers of Jesus Christ to learn from one another, to encourage one another, and to obey God's Word. You'll find yourself growing. Christ will work in you and through you and you will know His hand is upon you as He leads you

along life's pathway. Many struggle because they want Christ to walk with them; but believers are instructed to leave their own pathways and walk with Christ. He comes into a person's life with transformation, making forgiven sinners new creations in Christ. God will be busy conforming His children to the image of His Son. Salvation is the most important step anyone can take in life and is the only way to truth.

## CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“ W X R P A O W P D P M W P I A O W K P  
N K F O Z A O Z M P F M X O M A M F K F B B A P D  
M W F W P X J V A O I W K F O W X R P  
K X B P E P M M E T A O E X C P U A W K  
M B D A O Z . ” — Z . M F O W F T F O F

Previous Solution: "I ... was literally as poor as you can get in Britain without being homeless at one point." — J.K. Rowling  
TODAY'S CLUE: ⚡ s y n e r g





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					<p>Candidate must be detail-oriented with a minimum of 5 years of experience with manual lathes and mills. Requirements include: ability to manufacture machined parts from detailed blueprints and take accurate measurements to inspect work during machining operations to verify required tolerances are held.</p> <p>Candidate must have a strong mechanical aptitude and be a self-starter. Must have good communications skills. CNC machine operation and programming a plus but not required.</p> <p>Competitive pay scale based on knowledge and experience.</p> <p>Full benefit package includes, Health, Dental &amp; Vision insurance. 401K, Vacation, and Holiday pay.</p> <p><b>Send resume to: Marion Engineering &amp; Technology, Inc. P.O. Box 924, Marion IN. 46952</b></p>	<p><b>Junk Cars, Trucks &amp; Vans Pay CASH FREE towing 260-602-7800</b></p> <p><b>FINANCIAL</b></p> <p><b>LEGALS</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>HOUSE</b></p> </div>
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